Art Unit: Not yet assigned

## Remarks:

Applicant respectfully requests entry of the present preliminary amendment prior to examination of this continuation application. Applicant submits that the claims that remain pending after entry of the present preliminary amendment, namely claims 24-32, are allowable over the art of record and respectfully and earnestly solicits early indication of same.

If the examiner finds that there are any outstanding issues that may be resolved by a telephone interview, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below listed number.

Respectfully submitted,

Mitchell L Weinstein

Reg. No. 37,963

Dated: February 25, 2004

WELSH & KATZ, LTD.

120 South Riverside Plaza, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor

Chicago, Illinois 60606

(312) 655-1500 Telephone

(312) 655-1501 Facsimile